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HALIFAX • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2 2008

metronews



Celebrity pg 14

Lily Allen  
renounces  
partying  
ways



Stéphane Dion said yesterday he would step down as soon as a successor can be chosen. Liberal insiders said that Michael Ignatieff could be appointed leader as early as tomorrow.

# Dion steps aside

Liberal leader could be gone by tomorrow

## It ended with an e-mail.

There was no pomp and ceremony, just a statement released to the media.

"There is a sense in the party, and certainly in the caucus, that given these new circumstances the new leader needs to be in place before the House resumes. I agree ... I want to do what is best for my country and my party," Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said.

After a weekend when even loyalists began musing publicly that it was time for him to go, Dion's statement reiterated his intention to resign as soon as his

**"I want to do what is best for my country and my party."**

Stéphane Dion

successor is chosen — but this time a whole lot earlier than before. All this followed a tumultuous week of highs and lows for Dion. The man who led his party into a drubbing at the polls in the last general election had revived his dream of becoming prime minister by negotiating an unlikely coalition with the New Democrats, supported by the

separatist Bloc Québécois.

He was ridiculed for an amateurish videotaped address to the nation, called a coward for admitting the Tory attack ads against him had worked and labelled a traitor for defending Canadian federalism against the separatists in the 1990s only to join forces with them in the coalition.

An announcement as to who will replace Dion is expected this week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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**Ignatieff looks ready to take Grit leadership**

Entertainment page 12

Nico proving to Canada he can certainly dance

Health page 11

**Contraception plan for teens has Brits upset**

**Foreign plane crash victims found alive**

RACHEL BOOMER  
rachel.boomer@metronews.ca



**CESSNA** Rescuers have found a Dane and a Swede who went missing Sunday night after their twin-engine plane crashed on the ice in the Hudson Strait.

The men spent 18 hours wandering the ice near Baffin Island in -20 C temperatures, wearing just the clothes they had on when they crashed. But other than a "mild" case of frostbite and hypothermia for one of the crash victims, they're fine, said Halifax-based Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokeswoman Jeri Grychowski.

"They appear to be in good condition," Grychowski told Metro Halifax.

At about 11 a.m. Monday, the fishing vessel Atlantic Enterprise spotted the 25-year-old Swede and the 50-year-old Dane walking across the ice about 7.2 kilometres away from Baffin Island.

The men were flying from Wabush, Labrador, to Iqaluit at about 5 p.m. Sunday when both engines on their Cessna Skymaster failed. The plane crashed into the ice, said Grychowski, but the men got out through a broken window.

"As soon as they got out, the plane sank," Grychowski said.

She didn't know how they stayed warm, or what the original purpose of their trip was.

**RCMP continue search for missing passenger**

**ANNAPOLIS** Annapolis RCMP are still searching for 19-year-old Elizabeth Morrisette, a passenger in a car that went into Little River early Sunday morning.

At 12:30 a.m., the car hit a guardrail at a Wilmot, Annapolis Co., intersection. Two of the three people inside got out, but Morrisette was still in the vehicle when it went into the water.

Morrisette's family in Ontario have been notified.

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## Celebrate Human Rights Day at Dartmouth Sportsplex

Tomorrow is International Human Rights Day. The Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission will mark it with a breakfast, drumming, dance and awards presentation at the Dartmouth Sportsplex, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

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# Local



## Man pleads guilty to fatal stabbing

**MANSLAUGHTER** A fight over a Pizza Pocket was behind the stabbing death of a 21-year-old dad last April.

Yesterday, 18-year-old Brandon Anderson pleaded guilty to manslaughter in Paul Saunders' death and was handed a four-year sentence.

"If I could go back in time and change everything, I would. It's like a bad dream," Anderson told Judge Pam Williams.

He said he wanted to apologize to Saunders' family, but they weren't in court.

"I'm just sorry for everything. I truly am."

### Sentence

- Judge Pam Williams sentenced Anderson to five years. He'll get a year taken off because of time served. He was 17 at the time of the fight, but was sentenced as an adult. He'll serve his first two years, until he turns 20, at the Waterville youth jail.

Anderson stabbed Saunders with a knife. Saunders, blood soaking through his shirt and armed with a knife of his own, chased Anderson down the hallway. They both ran into the elevator. The two hosts of the party ran in with them, trying to break up the fight. When the doors opened on the 10th floor, Anderson stabbed Saunders again and again — then ran down the stairwell.

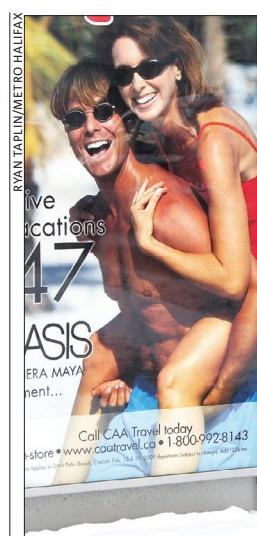
Saunders died on the way to the hospital.

Anderson's mother visibly struggled as she addressed the court, but spoke clearly about her belief in her son's "huge potential." He plans to become a sheet-metal worker.

Saunders had just moved to Halifax from Quebec, where his toddler, a little girl, still lives. He was supposed to start a new job at Sobeys a few days after the party.

"I love you. It's OK," Anderson mouthed to his mother as he was led out of court.

KAMIA CREELMAN  
/FOR METRO HALIFAX



A man passes a bus-shelter ad as he walks along a snowy sidewalk on Young Street yesterday afternoon. Today's forecast calls for a high of 0 C with a 60 per cent chance of flurries later in the day.

## Lights out

EDANA ROBITAILLE  
for Metro Halifax

**Halifax was left in the dark yesterday morning after a heavy snowfall smothered the city. Between 8,000 and 9,000 customers lost power starting around 3 a.m. Most of the outages were in the Halifax area.**

Margaret Murphy, spokeswoman for Nova Scotia Power, said the outages were caused by trees that toppled onto power lines from the weight of the

snow. Power to most homes was restored by 6 a.m., although a downed pole in Clayton Park had 600 customers without power until around 1:30 p.m.

Schools were closed and roads were slippery. Cpl. Joe Taplin, spokesman for the RCMP in Halifax, said there were a lot of cars stuck in

Nova Scotia Power's Margaret Murphy

**"We had a number of calls preparing for it yesterday. People were aware the conditions could turn stormy and indeed they did."**

Murphy says Nova Scotia Power was prepared for the storm.

"We had a number of calls preparing for it yesterday," she said. "People were aware the conditions could turn stormy and indeed they did. The crews were prepared for it to have started around suppertime on Sunday."

### Metro correction of volunteer figures

**REPORT** Sixteen per cent of people who spend one hour or less per day on the Internet volunteer five to 15 hours a month.

This was also the case for 15 per cent of people who spend more than one hour per day online. Almost 13 per cent of non-Internet users volunteer at the same rate.

METRO HALIFAX

## Christmas Daddies raise big bucks

The annual CTV Christmas Daddies telethon raised more than \$890,000 to help poor kids this Christmas. The Salvation Army uses that money to buy toys, gifts, food and clothing to more than 16,000 Maritime kids. The telethon has raised more than \$24 million since it began in 1964.

METRO HALIFAX

## Man arrested in alleged takeout-delivery assault

**COURT** A man accused of impersonating a takeout delivery man to enter a home and assault a woman Sunday has been arrested.

Douglas Bowen was caught by police on Agricola Street around 9 p.m. Sunday.

Six hours earlier, a man allegedly knocked on the door of a 26-year-old woman's Charles Street home claiming he was delivering food.

The woman hadn't ordered food, but opened the door. The man threatened

her and tried to sexually assault her. She yelled and the man ran away, leaving her with minor injuries.

Bowen appeared in court yesterday. His bail hearing was put off until today.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

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# Muslims gather for traditional festival

JENNIFER TAPLIN  
jennifer.taplin@metronews.ca

## More than 1,000 Muslims bowed and prayed at Exhibition Park yesterday morning.

Muslims around the world marked Eid Aladha, the sacrifice feast festival, a major event on the Islamic calendar that has been celebrated for centuries. It also coincided with the hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

"It commemorates an incident that represents the ultimate in trust in Allah, in God," said Imam Jamal Badawi, who led the sermon yesterday.

In an interview, he described the story of Abraham, which is told with

slightly different versions in Judaism and Christianity. Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his son as a test of his faith. At the last minute, God substituted a ram instead.

Around the giant hall where the faithful kneeled and prayed were posters asking for donations for a new mosque and community centre on Chebucto Road.

When completed, Badawi said the Ummah Masjid maybe the largest mosque east of Montreal.

"We're hoping it will be a hallmark in Halifax and a tourist attraction, like some Islamic centres — like the one in Washington, D.C."

Besides a massive mosque, there will also be

a community centre with a gymnasium for the Muslim community and for others as well, he said.

But they're about \$100 million short of having a roof-tight structure. Badawi said they're having a "great difficulty" raising the funds. He said he's hopeful they can raise the money in a few months to put a roof on the project for the winter.

"One reason for the initial high cost is we're trying to be environmentally friendly. It's a green building, using geothermal heating which requires a lot of outlay in the beginning but it's good for the environment," he said.

"We have to depend on God, No. 1, and self-help."



More than 1,000 Muslims prayed during Eid Aladha, the sacrifice feast festival, in Exhibition Park in Halifax yesterday. It's one of the biggest events in the Islamic calendar.

## News in brief

**POLL** People are happier with the ruling provincial Tories' performance than they were in the summer, according to a new Corporate Research Associates poll. But the Tories shouldn't break out the party hats just yet; NDP leader Darrell Dexter is still most people's first choice as

premier, and Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil is gaining on Premier Rodney MacDonald. The poll shows 55 per cent of those surveyed — up eight per cent from August — are mostly satisfied with the government's performance. The poll shows Tory support remains

unchanged at 33 per cent. And 30 per cent still pick Dexter as their preferred premier, with MacDonald steady at 27 per cent. CRA surveyed 1,203 adults between Nov. 6 and 30. The poll is considered accurate to within 2.8 percentage points.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

## Rehabilitation or adult sentence? Debate for teen guilty of murder

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

### IRCS program

- The program puts \$275 per day — more than \$100,000 per year — toward the rehabilitation of a young offender.

Lawyers began the debate yesterday over whether a teen who committed murder a year ago should be tried as a youth or adult.

The teen, who cannot be named, pled guilty to killing Matthew James Ayer, 28, on Gottingen Street last October. At the time, the teen was months away from his 18th birthday.

He's spent the last year at the Waterville jail for youth. Now prosecution and defence lawyers must present their cases this week to determine if he should get a life sentence as an adult or a youth sentence of around seven years.

Three Waterville supervisors testified yesterday the youth has been in and out of trouble over the last year. There have been threats, assaults and extorting cancer food from other inmates.

Even if the teen is sentenced as a youth, he will be automatically transferred to a provincial adult facility like the Burnside Correctional Centre once he turns 20. That means he would only spend about one year

in Waterville.

But a key difference would be the possibility of taking part in a lucrative federal rehabilitation program, known as Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision, or IRCS. This allows inmates to take part in programs and counselling they could never otherwise afford.

Even if the teen is sentenced as a youth, the severity of his crime would make him an unusual IRCS candidate.

The hearings continue until Thursday. The sentence will be delivered Jan. 29.

**ShareYourViews**  
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**A gift of chance**

A recent study showed 30 per cent of high school students got at least one lottery ticket as a gift in the last year. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 5

# Shocking finds in child-porn case

'How to' video discovered, police claim

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

**A video on how to sexually assault children was just one of the disturbing finds when police raided the home of a man who once faked his own death to avoid jail.**

RCMP officers used peer-to-peer programs to search files shared by Jeremy Daniel Oakley, 37, of Peggy's Cove Road. They allegedly found multiple videos of sexual abuse of both underage boys and girls.

Oakley famously evaded capture for several years by faking his own death. Oakley was charged with sexually assaulting a nine-year-old girl in British Columbia in 2004, but skipped out on bail.

He was caught later in

## Search warrant details

- According to the search warrant, one four-minute video was a manual showing "how

to abuse children with sex toys without getting caught or leaving any traces of abuse."

the year in Nova Scotia by RCMP, but was again able to skip bail. A fake obituary then ran in the Chronicle-Herald, which ended his law trouble for years.

But in May, Oakley was caught again. Police allegedly found seven child pornography videos as well as homemade marijuana.

The video shows various sex toys and features male and female children ranging from newborns to 13-year-olds.

The other six videos all featured various pornographic content. One allegedly shows a girl no more than five-years-old

dancing in her underwear, then having sex with an adult male. The video goes on to show several other young girls assaulted.

Another video shows a boy 10- to 12-years-old undressing. Another shows two girls 12- to 15-years-old having sex with each other, then an adult male has sex with both of them.

All of the videos were allegedly traced to Oakley's hard drive.

Oakley now faces charges in both Nova Scotia and B.C., ranging from accessing and possessing child pornography to possession of marijuana.

## Lego Building a museum exhibit



Lawrence Livesey, a member of the Nova Scotia Lego Users Group, works on a 225-square-foot display at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic yesterday. The Lego: City by the Sea exhibit, which will feature several local landmarks and hundreds of thousands of Lego pieces, opens today and will be on display until mid-February.

## Fire victim's name released by RCMP

**WOLFVILLE** RCMP in Wolfville have released the name of a man who died in a fire on Saturday morning. John Patrick Jordan, 36, died of smoke inhalation in his apartment on Highland Avenue. The fire is believed to have been caused by careless smoking. **EDANA ROBITAILLE** /FOR METRO HALIFAX

## Man dies after pickup crashes

**FATALITY** A 21-year-old man from Clarks Harbour was killed Saturday night when the pickup truck he was in drove off the highway and crashed into a ditch. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

RCMP were called to

the crash on Upper Clyde Road at around 10:20 p.m. The two other passengers in the single-cab pickup truck survived. The driver had fled the scene, but was located by Barrington and Area Ground Search and Rescue and a police dog.

Police are still investigating the cause of the crash.

RCMP were called to

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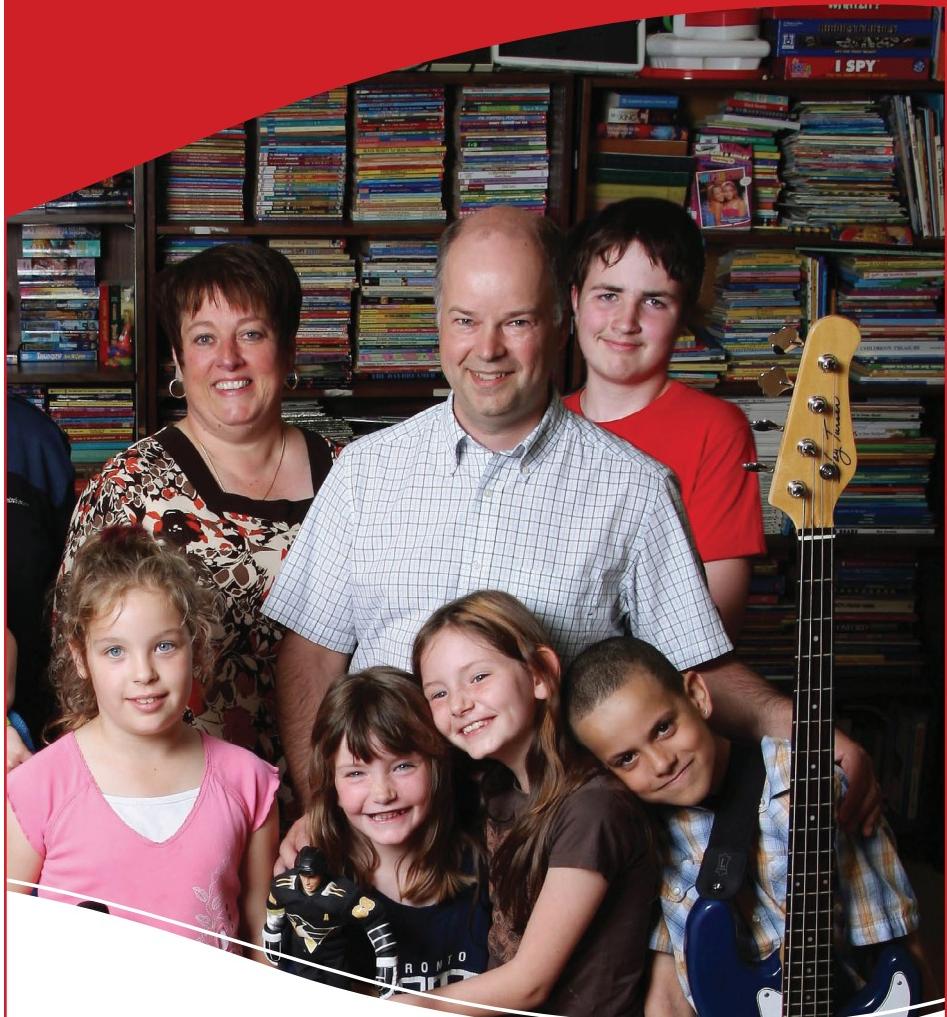
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**Explosive found in Edmonton Rona store**  
Police dismantled an explosive device found in a north Edmonton Rona store yesterday afternoon. Police have a person of interest in custody. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# Canada

## Quebec Liberals win third term

Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest managed a rare feat last night, becoming the first Quebec premier to win three consecutive mandates since Maurice Duplessis, against a much stronger showing for Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois than anyone expected.

Questions will certainly be asked, however, as to why support for Charest's Liberals was more tepid than imagined, and whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's aggressive denunciations of Quebec separatists last week contributed to the healthy sovereignist result.

The gains made by the Liberals and the Pauline Marois's PQ came at the expense of the ADQ, which was being pushed back to marginal status in the 125-seat National Assembly.

Major news organizations called the majority victory for Charest's Liberals barely a half hour after the polls closed last night,



Quebec premier Jean Charest casts his vote in his home riding in Sherbrooke, Que., yesterday. Charest's Liberals won their third straight mandate.

but by press time, the majority was slight.

It was a remarkably different picture than that which emerged on election night 2007, when Charest

nearly lost the premier's chair to the Action démocratique du Québec's Mario Dumont, and ended up leading a minority government.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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## Ignatieff's 'coronation' under fire

**POLITICS** Liberal Bob Rae is opposing what he calls the "coronation" of rival Michael Ignatieff, painting himself as the champion of democracy and calling for a party-wide vote to select the next Liberal leader.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion yesterday cleared the way for a fast-track leadership contest, pledging to step aside as soon as one is chosen.

That's expected tomorrow when Liberal MPs and senators meet behind closed doors to give their nod to Ignatieff.

But Rae is making it clear that he won't quietly

**"What I'm proposing has a simple name — it's democracy."**

Liberal MP Bob Rae

end his leadership bid, despite mounting pressure to step aside and let Ignatieff take the crown unopposed.

"I don't think coronations are generally very successful in political parties ... Most people believe it's better to have a contest, it's better to have a choice," Rae told reporters in Toronto.

"What I'm proposing has a simple name — it's democracy," he said.

Since only a delegated convention can select a permanent leader, Ignatieff's appointment would be ratified by acclamation at the Liberal leadership convention in May if Rae were to withdraw from the race. If Rae chooses not to withdraw, Ignatieff would have to fight for the crown.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

VIDEO What does Dion's departure mean for the Liberal party's future at [metronews.ca/canada](http://metronews.ca/canada)

### News in brief

**HEALTH** Ontario needs to do a better job of ensuring the safety of meat products by following up on food-safety violations in slaughterhouses and meat-processing plants, says provincial Auditor General Jim McCarter. A number of abattoirs and free-standing

meat processors were found to have "major and serious" deficiencies according to yesterday's report.

**ATTACK** A favourite noisemaker at hockey games was wielded as a weapon at a matchup in western Newfoundland,

CBC News Online reports. RCMP said a man blew an air horn into an ear of a 13-year-old boy during a game at De Grau on Friday night. A 25-year-old has been charged with assault and assault with a weapon.

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# Comment & Views

## Comment

## Iggy offers less fodder for Tory attacks

## National Report



**Lawrence Martin**

So much for the Liberal leadership race. For all intents and purposes, it's over. The nightmare before Christmas — the political pandemonium of the last two weeks — has touched off a rush to anoint Michael Ignatieff as the new man.

Anointed he likely will be. The third candidate, Dominic LeBlanc, has exited the race and is throwing his support behind Iggy. A bandwagon effect is in course. The date of the con-

vention, if there is one, will be being moved to January, meaning that Bob Rae, who needed time to stage a fight, won't have it. Without it, he is finished. His fundamental problem was that his baggage from his days as Ontario premier, 16 years ago, would not go away. Sometimes we forgive. Sometimes we don't. In his case, we didn't.

The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.

Sir Michael has his own encumbrances. He is patrician, to the manor born, lacking in the common touch. He is inexperienced, having only been in politics for three years and he signed on, reluctantly, to the coalition deal. On the

**The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.**

plus side, he is intellectually radiant and an effective communicator with a presence that is commanding. He knows that the most important thing in politics is messaging. Stephen Harper illustrated this last week when, in the space of a couple of days, he brilliantly changed the national discussion from his pathetic economic statement to national unity.

The Conservatives will

berate Mr. Ignatieff as an egghead and beat him up for signing the coalition pact. But his being new to politics means the fire-breathing Harper will have less ammunition on which to base cheap attack ads. While Bob Rae has many of the Iggy qualities and is much more seasoned, the Harper team would have unlimited gunpowder with him as Liberal leader.

Mr. Ignatieff is also situated more in the centre of the political spectrum and will end, for better or for worse, the leftward drift of the party. He will be in a strong position to rebuild the party in Quebec now that the prime minister has alienated so many in La Belle Province with his demonization of the Bloc Québécois.

With his impressive stan-

ding in the polls, Mr. Harper is probably tempted himself to push for an election. The public, caught up in politics to a degree seldom seen, might not be opposed to going to the polls again.

But with Mr. Dion stepping down, the chemistry changes. A new Liberal leader cannot probably help but move his party's

numbers upward.

Mr. Ignatieff will move cautiously, easing off on any coalition commitment. A mighty chess match will ensue between him, a nobleman, and the prime minister, a Doberman.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

## Views

## How the opposition helped propel Stephen Harper in polls



**Ezra Levant**

The proposed Liberal-NDP-Bloc coalition government is as good as dead — gone as quickly as it was formed.

Just days after it was announced, Liberal MPs started distancing themselves from it. Then Stéphane Dion bungled a videotaped

speech for national TV. And then the Governor General granted Stephen Harper a breather by cancelling Parliament for a month.

But the real nails in the coffin are polls showing Canadians deeply oppose the coalition. The scheme has backfired, and Harper has skyrocketed to his highest level of support yet. How could the opposition have miscalculated so badly?

Three reasons. Firstly, personal animosity towards

Harper blinded the opposition. The opposition thought Canadians shared their hate for Harper — so much so they'd accept any trick to kick him out of office.

The second mistake was the opposition listened to the media, which tends to be liberal. The media's first reaction to the coalition was excitement and support. But that elite opinion was formed in part by their hostility to Harper.

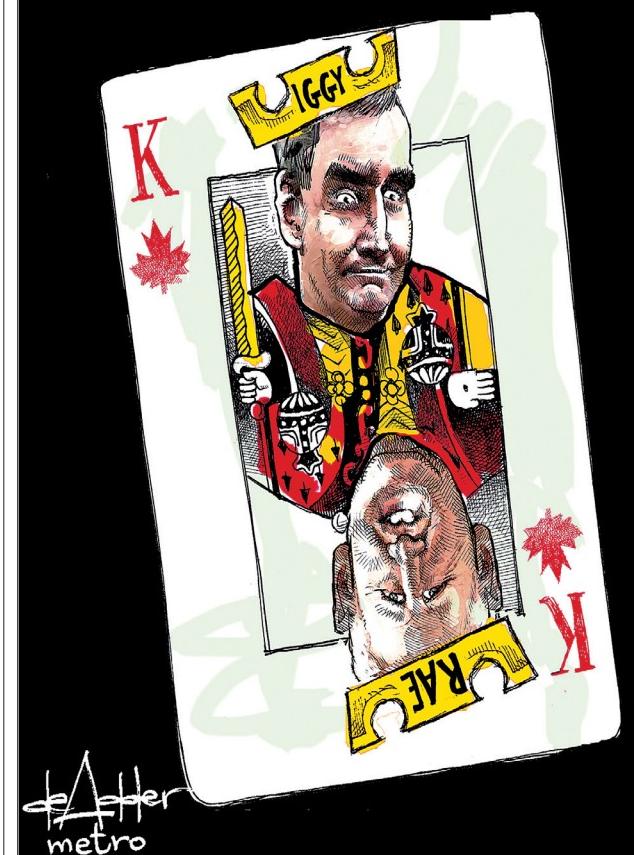
But the biggest reason is

the inclusion of the Bloc. Simply put, Canadians are scared of them.

Signing a contract with Quebec separatists isn't normal in the eyes of Canadians — no matter what Harper hating opposition MPs or their sympathetic media friends say.

Ezra Levant is a lawyer, author and free-speech activist who blogs at [www.ezralevant.com](http://www.ezralevant.com). He volunteered in the Conservative war-room during the last election.

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China will team up with Russia to launch two satellite probes to take pictures of Mars and one of its small moons in October 2009 as it seeks to cement its place in the ranks of global space powers. A Chinese-built probe will piggy-back on a Russian-built rocket which will also carry a Russian satellite. **REUTERS**

# World/Business

## More riots likely in Greece

The funeral today of a teenager shot dead by police was expected to provoke more riots in Greece following three days of the country's worst unrest in decades.

The 15-year-old boy's killing on Saturday night has fanned public anger at unpopular economic policies and scandals as the global financial crisis reaches Greece.

Thousands of protesters burned and looted shops in central Athens and tear gas choked Syntagma Square outside the Greek parliament as police clashed with left-wing demonstrators yesterday.

More than 50 people have been hurt and scores of shops, banks and cars damaged. Police arrested about 150 people.

The shooting victim, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, will be buried today. Police were bracing for more violence around the funeral and during a general strike called for tomorrow.

The government condemned the incidents and denied reports it was plan-



A protester throws a stone at riot policemen yesterday outside of the main administrative building of the University of Athens. Thousands of protesters rampaged through the heart of Athens yesterday on a third day of riots sparked by the killing of a teenager by police.

### India's ruling party wins 3 elections

**VOTE** India's ruling party won three of five state elections yesterday, defying predictions of a political battering after both an economic slowdown and attacks on Mumbai.

Final results were still being counted yesterday for two out of the five state elections held over the last month, mostly in central and western India.

The votes come before

national elections in 2009 that will pit a ruling Congress-led coalition against an opposition alliance led by the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The outcome is a boost for Congress, which has suffered a string of state election defeats in the last year amid rising inflation and accusations of weak leadership.

**REUTERS**

### News in brief

**SAUDI ARABIA** More than two million Muslim pilgrims stoned walls symbolizing the devil in a valley outside Mecca yesterday as part of the hajj pilgrimage. Pilgrims began three days of stoning and celebrated the first day of Eid al-Adha. **REUTERS**

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### Sept. 11 defendants ask to confess

**GUANTANAMO** The self-styled mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks and four co-defendants told a military judge yesterday they wanted to confess and plead guilty.

Barack Obama has said he will shut down the widely condemned Guan-

tanamo prison camp and try detainees in the regular U.S. civilian or military courts. Several defendants had said at previous hearings that they welcomed martyrdom, and they may have felt that opportunity slipping away with Obama's election.

**REUTERS**

## Business

### TSX rides oil prices to higher close

**Toronto's main stock index closed at its highest level in more than a week yesterday in a broad-based rally supported by a rebound in oil prices and optimism that stimulus measures around the globe would help avert a deeper slide in the economy.**

The resource-heavy index, coming off a 12 per cent skid last week, surged at the open and hung on to the bulk of its gains as the

price of oil bounced off the four-year low set last week.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX composite index closed 450.09 points, or 5.55 per cent, higher, at 8,567.12, with all of its 10 main sectors up.

Shares of oil company EnCana Corp. shot 9.34 per cent higher to \$55.61 and were the biggest driver of the TSX's gain. Suncor Energy rallied 6.59 per cent to close at \$23.30. **REUTERS**

### BCE boosted by positive second accounting opinion

**TELECOM** BCE Inc., the Canadian telecom giant whose \$34.8-billion buyout appears close to collapse, has received a second accounting opinion that found it would be solvent after the deal is done, a source familiar with the situation said yesterday.

The source said BCE retained PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide a second solvency opinion. The move comes after BCE announced in November that KPMG, its accountants, had found the company would fail such a solvency test be-

cause of the huge debt load related to the deal.

In a statement, BCE denied PwC was engaged to provide a solvency opinion. Rather, BCE said, PwC would "perform valuation work in connection with the company's submissions to KPMG." **REUTERS**

### Pressure rising on insurers: A.M. Best

**FORECAST** Insurance credit rating agency A.M. Best Co. said yesterday that it believes "unprecedented negative financial conditions" will pose difficulties for Canadian life insurers well into 2009.

Although the outlook is currently stable for the majority of life insurers, the rating agency said that this could change if the economy deteriorates, which would likely bring higher credit defaults, equity market volatility, lower consumer confidence and weaker product sales.

"Continued macroeconomic deterioration would lead to a change in outlook and negative rating changes for the entire segment," Best said.

### THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

**Housing still affordable:** The RBC Housing Affordability measure for Atlantic Canada noted that despite price gains across the region, housing affordability has not deteriorated excessively during the boom of the past two years. Affordability measures in Atlantic Canada currently stand only five to 13 per cent above long-run averages.

**Yarmouth plant delayed:** German aerospace company Xperion, which was to build a plant in Yarmouth, has postponed the start of that plant for between nine and 12 months. A company official says the plans will be reviewed in May.

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

Note: Please check bank websites as some rates require a minimum account balance.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

# Big gifts with small prices

**Smart Cookies**

smartcookies.com

With gift giving in full swing, we thought we'd share our favourite gift ideas for the fabulous people on your list this year.

**Sandra's Pick**

Give the gift of experience and the opportunity to save big by giving the 2009 Entertainment book. For less than \$50, the book is a collection of vouchers redeemable at both local & national businesses. Savings are available for a variety of sectors, including movies, restaurants, sporting events, travel, gasoline, and more!

For an added touch of thoughtfulness, flip through the book before wrapping and tag a few

places you know the gift recipient would love to go. Check out [entertainment.com](#) to learn more.

**Angela's Pick**

For the fashionable and simply fabulous friend on your list, check out Cheeky Umbrella. Not only is each umbrella stylish and sturdy, but each comes with a sassy statement scrolled along the underside ("When does it start raining men?" and "It's raining, it's pouring, other umbrellas are boring"). This gift is the perfect accessory to the rainy-day wardrobe and sure to brighten even the darkest of days. Check it out at [cheekyumbrella.com](#).

**Katie's Pick**

What better way to give a gift of all the memories you have shared than a photo album. Now you can digitally create your own photo book complete with a hard cover and sleeve. Apple and [snapfish.com](#) offer fabulous products that allow you to drag and drop your photos into a work of art. An al-

bum can be completed within minutes and shipping can take as little as five business days. Photo books generally start around \$20 depending on the format and number of pages you include.

**Andrea's Pick**

Nothing is more thoughtful (and as easy on your wallet) than something homemade. So this holiday season, why not grab some girlfriends and spend an evening drinking wine and baking up your own specialty dessert? Take four or five pieces of your homemade deliciousness, wrap it with some clear or coloured cellophane paper (\$1 at your local dollar store), tie it off with some ribbon and voilà — you have a gift for only \$3 per bag. For Andrea's favourite fudge recipe, try googling "food network" and "old time chocolate fudge".

**Robyn's Pick**

Of course you could check out [smartcookies.com](#) for ideas (we wouldn't be Smart Cookies

if we didn't mention it). For just \$5 a month, or \$50 a year, you can get a premium subscription for your friend, your daughter, your wife or another other. Members will be able to download resources, create a spending plan, receive e-mail reminders regarding their financial and life goals, along with a free credit report, notices of special Smart Cookie offers and much more.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Smart Cookies e-mail us at [smartcookies@metronews.ca](mailto:smartcookies@metronews.ca).

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit [smartcookies.com](#) for more tips.

**Investing****Allan Small**

The week's column looks at job losses and the restructuring of companies. Visit [metronews.ca](#)

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## Your Money

**Q** I am self-employed and have always ran a successful business. Can you offer any tax advice before the end of this dismal year?

**Paul**

**A** As the holidays get closer, most Canadians are gearing up for shopping, vacations and festivities — not tax planning. However, a little time spent now may translate to substantial savings in the New Year.

- Pay yourself first. RRSP contributions not made by Dec. 31, 2008, can be made on or before March 2, 2009, for deductions in 2008.
- Consider paying family members that work in the business. They may be taxed at a lower marginal tax rate.
- Purchase assets for use in business before fiscal year-end. Although, you cannot deduct the entire amount, CCA is available.
- Keep a close watch on your credit. Banks are reducing and, in some instances, retiring loans.
- Sell stocks with losses

**Money Matters****Henry Choo Chong**

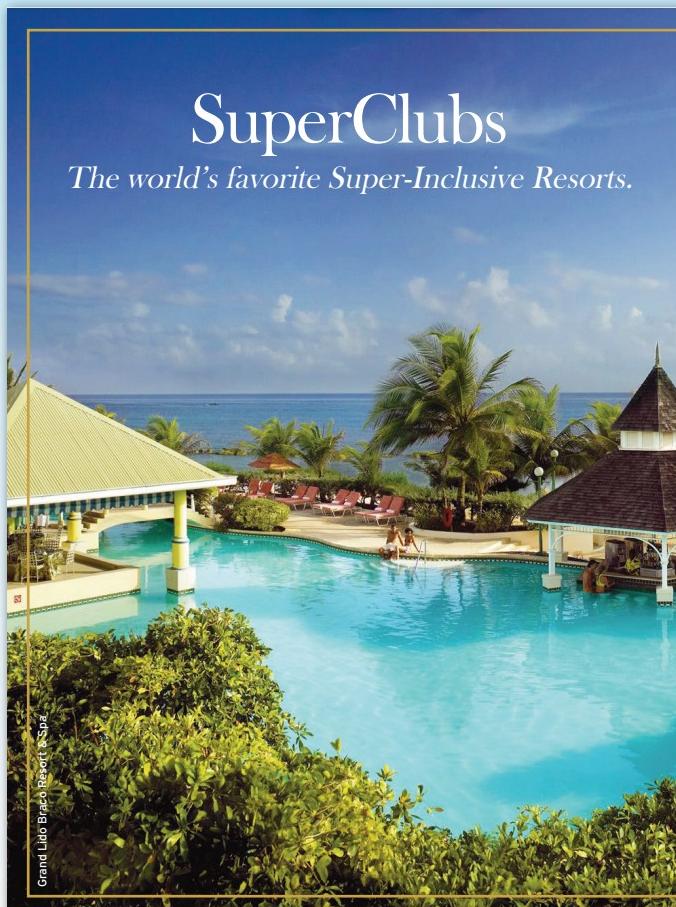
choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

that you can apply to reduce realized capital gains in current year or past three years. Check with your broker.

- Pay yourself first. RRSP contributions not made by Dec. 31, 2008, can be made on or before March 2, 2009, for deductions in 2008.
- Donate to charitable organization before Dec. 31. If you donate stocks that have appreciated in past several years, you may pay zero tax on capital gains and get a donation credit for contributions.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: [choochonghcg@yahoo.ca](mailto:choochonghcg@yahoo.ca).

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**\$899**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$201

**Varadero****Superclubs Breezes****Jibacoa • 3 1/2★**

Super All-Inclusive  
Garden view rm.  
Feb. 6 - 27 • 1 wk.

**\$1399**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$207

**Puerto Plata****Breezes Puerto Plata Resort, Spa & Casino • 4★**

Super All-Inclusive  
Standard rm.  
Feb. 4 - 25 • 1 wk.

**\$1369**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$310

**Varadero****Superclubs Breezes****Varadero • 3 1/2★**

Super All-Inclusive  
Super select rm.  
Feb. 6 - 27 • 1 wk.

**\$1379**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$207

**Jamaica****Grand Lido Braco****Resort & Spa • 4 1/2★**

Super All-Inclusive  
Royal garden view rm.  
Feb. 2 & 23 • 1 wk.

**\$1999**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$260

**Grand Lido Negril****Resort & Spa • 4 1/2★**

Super All-Inclusive  
Junior garden view suite  
Feb. 2 & 23 • 1 wk.

**\$2099**

Taxes &amp; fees: \$260

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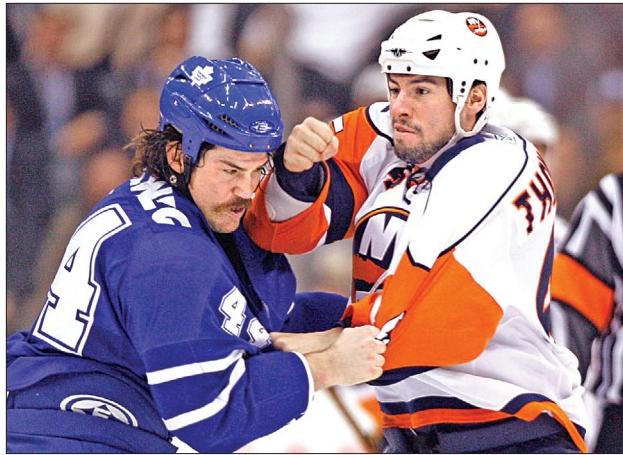
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Sean Avery's fate will be decided tomorrow. The team's brass will meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Avery situation in depth. Avery is currently serving a six-game suspension for making a crude remark last week. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



Maple Leafs forward Ryan Hollweg fights the Islanders' Nate Thompson last night.

## Leafs double up Isles

### NHL RESULT

**Islanders 2 Maple Leafs 4**



**NHL** Jason Blake netted what turned out to be the game-winning goal late in the second period and assisted on two others as the Toronto Maple Leafs topped the New York Islanders, 4-2 last night.

Jeremy Williams tallied a goal and assist while Nikolai Kulemin and Ian White had the other scores for Toronto, which halted a three-game slide. Vesa Toskala picked up the win with 26 saves.

The Maple Leafs won for only the second time in their last six home games and have still been on the losing end in eight of their

last 11 overall. The Leafs next travel to Buffalo to take on the Sabres Friday.

Bill Guerin and Mike Sillinger lit the lamp for New York, which has lost three straight and five of its last six overall.

Joey MacDonald, of Bayview, Pictou Co., made his 17th straight start, and was beaten for four goals on 37 shots and has now given up four or more goals in five of his last six starts, including nine over his last two starts.

The Leafs took a 3-2 lead with 1:39 left in the second by answering an Islanders score from a little over two minutes earlier.

Williams, skating across the high slot, feathered a nifty pass through two defenders to Blake cutting toward the net from the right boards.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### SCOREBOARD

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TOMORROW'S GAMES HALIFAX at P.E.I.  
Cape Breton at Lewiston  
Shawinigan at Montreal  
Quebec at Chicoutimi

#### NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Toronto 4 N.Y. Islanders 2  
Florida 4 Ottawa 3 (OT)  
Boston 5 Tampa Bay 3

#### TONIGHT'S GAMES

Golden State 112 Oklahoma City 102  
Memphis 109 Houston 97  
Miami 100 Charlotte 96  
Orlando at L.A. Clippers

#### TONIGHT'S GAMES

Toronto at Cleveland  
Detroit at Washington  
Utah at Minnesota  
New York at Chicago  
Atlanta at Houston  
San Antonio at Dallas  
Milwaukee at Phoenix  
Orlando at Portland  
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento

#### NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULT Carolina 38 Tampa Bay 23

#### NBA

Carolina's Muhsin Muhammad is tackled by the Bucs' Jermaine Phillips last night. Carolina took sole possession of the NFC South lead with a 38-23 victory.

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## Klassen won't race this season

Canadian speedskater Cindy Klassen, left, put the brakes on her return from knee surgery and has decided not to race this season. The winner of six Olympic medals wants time for her knees to heal before she steps to the start line again. The 29-year old Winnipeg native hasn't put her skates back on since arthroscopic surgery in July. Klassen says her priority remains the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## No sophomore slump for Toews

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Jonathan Toews had heard of sophomore slumps, but the Chicago Blackhawks forward didn't believe in them.**

So when he started the year with no goals and just seven assists in his first 12 games, he didn't fret, even though he carried the weight of a franchise on his shoulders after being named one of the youngest captains in NHL history in July.

Instead, the Winnipeg native righted the ship. After scoring his first goal on Nov. 9, Toews has been flying high, with eight goals and seven assists in his past 13 games. He was named the NHL's second star of the week yesterday. "I think (after your rookie year), reality

sets in where you're not in dreamland anymore," Toews said. "You've got to earn every point and every chance offensively, and every little thing that you do, you've got to work harder for it. It's great to finally get through that."

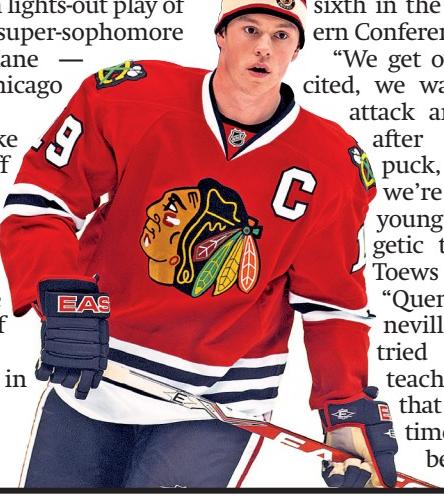
The 6-foot-2, 203-pounder's turnaround — along with lights-out play of fellow super-sophomore Patrick Kane — has Chicago suddenly looking like a playoff team, something it hasn't been since the days of Tony Amonte in 2002.

The Black-

hawks actually struggled out of the gate, going 1-2-2, but fired head coach Denis Savard on Oct. 16 and replaced him with Joel Quenneville. That signalled a turnaround for a young, skilled team that needed to be reined in.

The Blackhawks are 12-6-7, tied for sixth in the Western Conference.

"We get overexcited, we want to attack and go after the puck, and we're a young, energetic team," Toews said. "Quenneville has tried to teach us that sometimes it's better



## NFL NFC South showdown



Carolina's Muhsin Muhammad is tackled by the Bucs' Jermaine Phillips last night. Carolina took sole possession of the NFC South lead with a 38-23 victory.

## Sabres-to-Hamilton talk denied by owners

**NHL** In Buffalo, they're continually denying. In Hamilton, they're once again hopeful.

The hockey link between these two steel cities — based on the great mystery that is the sale of the Buffalo Sabres — roared to life again yesterday, but for very different reasons.

Sabres owners flatly and consistently denied their club is for sale, and that they have had exploratory talks with BlackBerry founder and billionaire Jim Balsillie about the purchase of the team. Those talks are the subject of an upcoming Western New York hockey magazine story, and have revived the possibility in Hamilton that the city's doors for an NHL franchise are open again after being

repeatedly slammed shut in several previous scenarios involving Balsillie.

"Tom (Golisano) is not shopping the team, and I have approached nobody," said Sabres managing partner Larry Quinn, who is said in the report to have approached Balsillie.

**"I would never discuss selling this team to anyone who would move it."**

Sabres minority owner Larry Quinn

"And I would never discuss selling this team to anyone who would move it ... I don't know how we could be any clearer."

The magazine story claims the Balsillie-Sabres talks are in preliminary stages, and will be brought up at the ongoing NHL board of governors meetings in Florida this week.

Balsillie, according to the report, approached Sabres owner Tom Golisano in 2007 about a deal, but was denied because of the threat of moving the team to Hamilton.

Balsillie had been in a separate negotiation to purchase the Pittsburgh Penguins, and is reportedly still trying to purchase 27 per cent of the Predators (if the portions of the shares of the now indicted, former Preds owner William Boots Del Baggio, are turned over to the open market).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Sports in brief

**MLB** Greg Maddux officially closed out his illustrious 23-year career by announcing his retirement yesterday at a news conference in his hometown of Las Vegas, the site of baseball's winter meetings. In 23 seasons with the Cubs, Braves, Padres and Dodgers, Maddux compiled a 355-227 record with a 3.16 ERA in 744 games — including 109 complete games and 35 shutouts.

**HOCKEY** Brittany Haverstock of Hammonds Plains has been named to Hockey Canada's roster for the MLP Cup, scheduled for Jan. 2-6 in Ravensburg, Germany. The Wisconsin Badgers' rookie has 12 assists in 20 games.

**HOCKEY** Jillian Saulnier of Halifax has been named to Hockey Canada's roster for the world under-18 girls hockey championship, scheduled for Jan. 5-10 in Germany. The forward plays for the Stoney Creek Sabres of the Ontario-based Provincial Women's Hockey League. Jessica Wong, a forward from Baddeck, also made the team.

**HARNESS RACING** Leading Horse of the Year candidate Somebeachsomewhere has been scratched from next week's Matron Stakes elimination race at Dover Downs due to illness. The Bible Hill-owned horse earned a single-season-record \$2.44 million with 14 wins in 15 starts this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Shed some light on your skin**

Protect your skin this winter with the Tanda Light Therapy starter kit. The Tanda Clear (for pimples) is \$250 and the Tanda Regenerative (for wrinkles) is \$275. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart and others. For more, go to [tandaskincare.com](http://tandaskincare.com). METRO NEWS SERVICES



# Health & Beauty

**BRIAN TOWIE**  
brian.towie@metronews.ca

**Caution: You might put on more holiday weight than you plan for.**

"Tis the season for indulgence: Christmas parties offer a plethora of candies, snacks and eggnog and that family dinner will more than likely consist of the classic favourites such as juicy turkey, turnip and mashed potatoes swimming in hearty gravy.

The holidays offer all kinds of easy opportunities to put on the "seasonal seven," or possibly the "seasonal-significantly-more-than-seven," but with a little restraint, you can minimize the jingle that accompanies the jingle.

"A lot of people will have

**"A delicious Christmas dinner can contain as much as 3,500 calories, without drinks."**

Susan B. Davis, registered dietician

good eating habits going into the holidays and then say, 'Well, I can let it go for now and then get back on the horse after,' but those extra five to seven pounds are hard to face on Jan. 1," says Susan B. Davis, a Maine-based registered dietitian and nutrition adviser for the Wild Blueberry Association.

"Stick with those good eating habits for as long as you can."

Mindless snacking often paves the road to ruin, says Davis. Since you're attending more parties this time of year, you'll be tempted

by fattening hors d'oeuvres preceding a dinner.

Moderation is the key: Don't overdo it with appetizers if you've shown up for a calorie-loaded meal. When you do finally get to the main course, stay modest and limit your sauces. Smaller meat portions, salads and baked potatoes with no butter or cream can all control the damage and nourish, as can fruits, steamed vegetables and spinach with no cheese. Eat slowly and only when you're hungry.

"The arithmetic on what comes on versus what

comes off is astounding," says Davis. "You can eat 1,000 to 1,500 calories without blinking. A delicious Christmas dinner can contain as much as 3,500 calories, without drinks. That can mean six hours on the elliptical machine just for one meal. It's a bear. You've got to either burn it up or eat less."

For every alcoholic drink, have one non-alcoholic drink, such as water, she advises. And while it's appropriate for the season, lay off the eggnog if you can.

"Out of the drinks you might have, that one in particular is a real diet killer," Davis says of the popular Christmas bevy. "Excess alcohol can contribute to sleep deprivation, which encourages



Smaller meat portions, salads and baked potatoes with no butter or cream can control the damage during the holidays.

weight gain. It's all connected."

The onus is on you to use the holiday time wisely, says Davis. When you're looking to watch your weight, there's no time like the present.

"The week between Christmas and New Year's

is another week of indulgence. You might feel guilty about the leftovers in your fridge and overeat to use them all up," she said. "Give it to a food bank. You don't have to wait until New Year's to clean up your act. Use that week to get back to normal."

## Knickers in a twist over British teen contraception

**The J Spot**

**Josey Vogels**

Sex talk with Josey



Kids are exposed to more information about sex than ever before and sound, comprehensive sex education starting at a young age is crucial, says our columnist.

Controversy over a British plan to offer contraceptive injections to teenage girls as young as 13 has the usual knickers in a twist. Critics are concerned the plan will promote underage sex and help spread sexually transmitted diseases.

It's the same argument that gets hauled out against sex education. As if young people never think about sex until an adult comes along, rips open a condom in front of them and shows them how to use it.

The truth is, in today's sexually-saturated culture, kids are exposed to more information about sex than ever before and sound, comprehensive sex education starting at a young age is crucial.

Besides, it seems to be working. Despite popular belief, in recent years, teenage pregnancy rates have fallen and the age of first sex has risen in both the U.S. and Canada. Even in England, teen pregnancies are down overall, ex-

cept in high-risk, usually low-income areas that are being targeted for this program.

And even in these areas, sexual health care workers admit the vast majority of 13-year-olds are not sexually active and most of the teenage pregnancies they see happen at age 16 or 17.

Also, it's not like they're running around, capturing 13-year-olds and forcefully injecting them with Depo-Provera, the contraceptive being used for the program that prevents pregnancy for three months at a time. The injections are being offered by trained professionals that talk to these girls about why they are having sex and explain the risks of sexually transmitted infections.

Rather than panicking

that we're encouraging girls as young as 13 to have sex by offering them contraception, isn't it better to admit that some are having sex and offer them education and options to ward off the consequences (that is, becoming a poor single, teenage mom)?

The other concern is that girls don't need parental consent to get the injection. In an ideal world, all young people would have parents so comfortable discussing sex openly and non-judgmentally that their kids would tell them everything. But again, wouldn't you rather a young woman be able to protect herself without telling her parents than go ahead and engage in risky activity because she needs parental consent to

protect herself but is too scared to talk to them?

Providing comprehensive sex education and making contraception choices available to teens does not encourage promiscuity or the spread of STDs any more than urging people to wear

seatbelts encourages risky driving and causes more accidents. If anything, it makes you more aware that the activity you are engaging in has serious consequences and that you can make individual choices to

protect yourself against those consequences.

And nobody is ever too young to learn that.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit [joseyvogels.com](http://joseyvogels.com).

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Twilight director Catherine Hardwicke has reportedly been turned down as director of the smash hit vampire film's sequel New Moon, despite vocalizing her desire to be involved with the project. [IMDB.COM](#)

# Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, [TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA](mailto:TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA)

## Madagascar ends 007's foreign rule

**MOVIES** A batch of Central Park zoo animals returning to their jungle habitat ended James Bond's five-week domination of the international box office.

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa, which began a record-busting rollout in late October in eastern Europe, roared to an estimated \$52.2 US million from 35 territories during the weekend. The film's foreign gross soared to \$125 million.

And it's still early in the film's run, according to Paramount.

REUTERS

RICK MCGINNIS  
Metro Canada

**After 13 weeks moving slowly toward centre stage on the biggest TV show in Canada, Montreal's Nico Archambault became the first winner of the homegrown version of So You Think You Can Dance, though talking to him a day after his win, he admits he was sure he was going home weeks ago.**

"I never felt safe," he tells me. "You can get a lot of

praise and then if you mess up the next week you're done. I have to say after my waltz I thought I was going to leave. The standard ballroom is hard. For a start, it's not really entertaining, and it looks easy, but it's not. People say 'why did you mess it up, it looks so easy.'

With a background in hip hop and contemporary, he says that he felt like he had the basics to take on the show's weekly challenges, but that his first big test came right after he made it into the top 10. "The first week I

picked salsa, which is totally new to me, and I'm partnering the Cuban girl (Arrasay Reyes)," he recalls. "But she was really good, and she was patient and really helped me."

Looking back, the standard ballroom dances were his biggest challenge, coming from a place utterly different from his training and taste, but he answers immediately when I ask him about what scared him the most. "It's gotta be the quickstep," he says. "I would never have done that. I wouldn't want to do it — honestly, from an outside point of view, and me coming from a contemporary and hip-hop background, I like everything that is twisted, quirky, dirty, weird. I like that. This is me.

"To me all the standard ballroom looked boring — I have to say it. But the show forces you to step into it, to



## New Order

Actor Jamie Bamber has returned to his native Britain to star in the latest Law & Order spinoff. Bamber will front Law & Order: London, the popular detective series' first international show. [IMDB.COM](#)



Nico Archambault, winner of the first season of *So You Think You Can Dance* Canada.

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA

schedule gets a lot more vague after that. "I don't know, and I like it. I'm really excited to see what's going to happen. There's already people on the show — judges and choreographers — who've said they want to work with me. I need to move around and see different stuff and do different projects."

Right now, his next gig is the cross-Canada tour for the show, but he admits that his

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**Tip of the Day:**  
The main part of intellectual education is not the acquisition of facts but learning how to make facts live.  
— Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

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**Bear Grylls recovering after fall**

Man Vs. Wild star Bear Grylls is recovering in a U.K. hospital after fracturing his shoulder in a fall while on an expedition across Antarctica. [IMDB.COM](#)



# Backstabbing in boardrooms

IntelleVision


**Rick McGinnis**  
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

**THE NETWORK THAT WENT CRAZY:** I'm not sure how much readers care about the Rome-at-empire's-end court politics at the number four U.S. network; I have to write about TV five days a week, so it's probably no surprise that this sort of flailing folly of backstabbing and corporate intrigue fascinated me.

Perhaps it's a sort of emotional Stockholm Syndrome, which has left me in thrall to the beat that holds me captive, but the success of shows like *Entourage* tells me that I might not be alone.

My source, as usual, is Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly, whose fascination with Ben Silverman's tenure as co-chairman of NBC entertainment and television makes mine seem restrained. Following up on her earlier predictions of heads rolling in time for

the holidays, she managed to preempt Silverman's own attempt to hide the firing of three senior programming executives in the hurly-burly of holiday news.

"The network/studio hoped to then spin this as part of cost-cutting rather than more evidence of failure," writes Finke. "But I messed up their plans. My bad."

The basic news is that NBC management has shifted the blame for their underperforming season on two women and one man — the heads of executive vice-president of NBC Entertainment, the president of Universal Studio Media and the head of reality programming respectively.

Katherine Pope had wanted to leave the network for a year, ever since half of her job at Universal Studio Media was given away, and Teri Weinberg, who was brought to the company by Silverman, has been marked for death ever since the network had to give a sweetheart kiss-off deal to a group of writer/producers, one of whom was Weinberg's

boyfriend.

Craig Plestis, the man in charge of NBC's reality programs, was let go because, well, do I need to utter the dread words Baby Borrowers aloud?

When things are as bad as they've become for NBC, rational explanations no longer hold sway — Pope was apparently more than competent at what she did (she had ameliorated Law & Order creator Dick Wolf's frayed relationship with the network), but Silverman apparently hated her, while Silverman's bulletproof status can be explained as a simple by-product of General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt's fondness for his favorite executive party boy.

For his part, Silverman is bringing in Paul Telegdy from the BBC to take Plestis' job so that Silverman will feel like he has "another dude" and "more friends" around him, according to Finke. Proof, were it needed, that high school never really ends, just summer vacation.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

## 'Little mouse' anxious to tour

**RICK MCGINNIS**  
Metro Canada


**From her first moment on-stage, Calgary's Allie Bertram had a singular role in the cast of dancers dancing together and in competition for the winner's circle in So You Think You Can Dance Canada.**

Petite and sweet-tempered, the 18-year-old became judge Luther Brown's "little mouse," and her classical training was actually considered a liability. After all, a ballerina had never made it into the show's final 10, never mind runner-up to Nico Archambault at the show's finale.

"I was comfortable with it," she says, looking back. "That's who I am, and that's truly who I came into this competition as, and I thought it was great that he was talking about me as his little ballerina, as I was doing these Latin dances or these hip hop dances."

She admits that she had to escape a lot of habits drilled into her after years of training. "I think it was letting go. I'm used to standing upright. Especially during our first hip hop with Danny (Arbour) it was so

**Allie Bertram**

hard for me to get out of character and be mean or tough. But by the time I did my second hip hop I was so ready.

"I have the technical training, but I have the mindset that you have to jump into it and try new things. Not that I think ballerinas don't have that, but you get so set in your style."

She says that right now, she's anxious for the show's tour to begin, and gives a glimpse of the camaraderie that defines the show's appeal. "Honestly I can't wait — to get back together with the top 10, I'm going to be so excited."

For DVD reviews of *The Dark Knight*, *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who* and *I Am Legend*, visit [metronews.ca](#)

## Writer Ellis tackles polygamy

**NEW GIG** Kirk Ellis, the Emmy-winning scribe of the HBO miniseries *John Adams*, has been hired to write *Escape*, starring Katherine Heigl.

The independently financed project tells the true story of Carolyn Jessop, who after years of being in a forced polygamous marriage escaped from the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints with her eight children. Ellis will adapt Jessop's book.

Ellis' credits also include the TNT miniseries *Into the West* and ABC's *Anne Frank: The Whole Story*.

REUTERS

## GlobalStyle

### Kenya Hunt



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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News (N)	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Funniest Home Videos	According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone	
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)		Funniest Home Videos	(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)		Eli Stone	
11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Legend of Frosty		The Tudors (N)	CBC News: The National		The Hour	
2	2	2	CBC-F	Terre humaine	Pyramide (SC)	Virginie (SC)	La Facture	Têtes à claqués	Filantes	Filantes	Le Téléjournal	
32	32	32	CBS	News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	NCIS "About Face"	The Mentalist (HDTV)		Without Trace	
69	69	69	CFTM	TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	Les Anges de la rénovation	Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)	La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)	TVA 22 heures			
6	6	6	CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NCIS "About Face"	House (HDTV) (N)	(10:01) Kitchen Nightmares	News (N)			
9	9	9	CJCH	etalk	Hollywood	Shrek *** (2001, Comedy)	Voices of Mike Myers.	Law & Order: SVU				
10	10	10	ELTV	(6) EastLink Television			Podium TV	EastLink Television				
36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV) (N)	(10:01) Fringe (HDTV)		Fox First	
12	12	12	NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	The Biggest Loser: Families (N)			Law/Ord SVU	
29	29	29	NW	World News	Business	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Capturing	
4	4	4	PBS-B	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	Frontline "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians"			Frontline: From Jesus to Christ			
35	35	35	PBS-D	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Secrets of Enlightenment With Deepak			Great Performances		
68	68	68	TQS	(6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Le Voeu de Noël (2004, Com. dramatique)	Elisa Donovan.		Pushing Daisies (SC)		110 pour cent		
23	96	96	BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	Workopolis TV	Squeeze Play		Market Call	
18	18	18	CNN	(5) The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live			Cooper 360	
54	54	54	GOLF	Drive, Chip & Putt	My World	Road Trip (N)	Natalie Gulbis	Golf Central	Big Break X: Michigan		Big Break X	
52	52	52	RSE	Prime Time Sports	Skiing: FIS World Cup Alpine	Skiing: FIS World Cup Alpine			Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Con.	
55	55	55	SCOR	WWE Monday Night Raw	Cabby Unlimi	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.				Score Tonight	
45	45	45	SPD	Unique Whips	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Unique Whips	
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NBA Basketball	Toronto Raptors at Cleveland Cavaliers. (HDTV) (Live)				SportsCentre	
43	43	43	FAM	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
44	44	44	TOON	Stardust	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	WaySide	Johnny Test	Futurama		American Dad	
26	26	26	TREE	Max & Ruby	Backyardigans	Angelina Bal.	Night Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch
27	27	27	YTV	Drake & Josh	iCarly	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.
16	16	16	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)	The First 48 (HDTV)			The First 48 (HDTV) (N)				Manhunters
70	70	70	APTN	News	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing		First Nation
50	50	50	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		ATL ** (2006, Comedy-Drama)	Tip "T.I." Harris, Lauren London.					Keyshia Cole
37	37	37	BRCV	Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Barenaked for the Holidays			Christmas
25	25	25	CMT	Chevy Cross Canada Countdown			Home Improve.	Reba	Reba			Hope & Faith
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Farce	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	
153	153	153	COURT	Killer Next Door		The Investigators	Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Code Red: Moment of Survival			Investigators
38	38	38	DISC	Naked Science (N)		Daily Planet (N)	How It's Made	How It's Made	Destroyed	Destroyed		Dirty Jobs
34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Colin-Justin	
46	46	46	HIST	Outlaw Bikers		NCIS "Silver War"	Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men		NCIS	
17	17	17	MM	Pimp My Ride	Technical Diff.	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	disBand	Technical Diff.	So You Think You Can Dance Canada		
19	19	19	MMM	MusicProfile	mmttop10.com	Where You At	Listed		Popaganda		Don't Forget	
201	201	201	M1	(6:15) Becoming Jane ** (2007)		(8:25) Grindstone Road (2008)			Untraceable ** (2008, Suspense)			
48	23	23	OLN	The Amazing Race 6	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman	Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way		
51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	House-Payne	Blood Work ** (2002, Suspense)	Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels.			
206	206	206	PIX	Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey	(7:50) Calendar ** (1993, Drama)	Arsenée Khanjian.		To Die For *** (1995, Comedy-Drama)				
67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Le Téléjournal (SC)				
39	39	39	SHOW	EastEnders	Vivienne Vyle	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)	Testees	Trailer Park	House	
40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Wedding SOS	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Tori & Dean	
47	47	47	SPACE	Stargate SG-1	</td							



**Steve-O to try hand at Dancing With The Stars**  
Jackass star Steve-O has been tapped as the next celebrity to join the cast of the hit TV show Dancing With The Stars, according to reports. [IMDB.COM](#)

## Celebrity Buzz

### Lohan's pricey leggings a hit

**CLOTHING** Actress Lindsay Lohan has managed to defy the global economic downturn — her new line of leggings have sold out in boutiques across the world, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The products from her 6126 collection range in price from \$44 to \$132 US, have become bestsellers.

The leggings come in 35 colours and patterns and are also said to have scored record sales in U.S. stores including Henri Bendel, Nordstrom, Intermix and Lisa Kline.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



### Dane rescues injured pooch

**PEOPLE** Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane nursed an injured chihuahua back to health when the little dog's guardian tossed her from a moving car, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The pooch suffered a broken leg and was limping around L.A.'s Larchmont shopping district when Dane spotted it.

"My wife thought I was the sweetest guy in the world for taking that dog, until I told her to take care of the dog."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

### I'll strip down for Bertolucci: Emma

**CAREER** Actress Emma Watson is willing to be naked on the big screen, as long as she is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The Harry Potter star says she would be happy to bare all on screen for any roles offered her way, but would prefer Stealing Beauty director Bertolucci

to be behind the camera.

But, she adds, "I'm not getting my kit off any time soon, but it is part of my job."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Allen renounces party-girl ways

**PEOPLE** Don't expect one-time party girl Lily Allen to stumble out of a club anytime soon, [People.com](#) reports.

"I've become a character in a comic ... and that character is always drunk! I wish my comic character wasn't that," the singer told the U.K.'s Observer Music Monthly.

Allen claims she's been off alcohol "since 22 September," and doesn't plan on indulging again — at least for now.

"I have no intention of taking drugs again at the moment," she said. "But I can't say 'Never again,' because I don't know where I'll be in 10 years' time. And I will definitely drink in the future, just not for awhile."

Gearing up for the release of her second studio

album It's Not Me, It's You, the 23-year-old continues to battle insecurities with her weight and appearance.



"My mum always told me, 'You're beautiful, you're my beautiful little girl,' and then suddenly I wasn't," she said. "I read all the stuff that people were writing about me and I started to get a different view. I mean, I never thought I was supermodel or anything, but I didn't think I was quite as unattractive as people were saying!"

Meanwhile in another interview, Allen said her friend, singer Amy Winehouse, whom she knows "very well," is different from how she's portrayed.

"(She's) a very clever, intelligent, witty, funny person who can hold it together," she said. "You just don't see that side. She gets a really hard time." METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Money woes may have ruined union

**BREAKUP** Actress Jodie Sweetin's marriage to Cody Herpin broke down following the near foreclosure of their home and a range of money woes, according to U.S. reports.

The former Full House star, 26, filed for legal separation from Herpin, 31, in November, just seven months after giving birth to the couple's first child, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The pair had even announced plans for a reality show, based on their family life, before the split.

In court documents, obtained by [People.com](#), Sweetin blames her estranged husband's lack of employment

as the main factor behind their relationship troubles.

"Our house is in foreclosure, our water has been shut off twice. Currently, all of our other utilities are overdue," Sweetin states. "(Herpin) kept finding one excuse after another for his failure to even attempt to find employment."

According to [People.com](#), Sweetin also claims the couple were surviving from residuals from Full House re-runs and help from her parents.

Sweetin has filed for joint custody of their baby daughter Zoie.

A hearing for the case is set for Feb. 9.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Aniston proves critical acting teacher wrong

**CAREER** Jennifer Aniston partly owes her success to a harsh teacher who insisted she'd never make it as an actress, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The former Friends star was ridiculed and slated by the coach during her school days, and set out to prove him wrong.

"I was in the High School of Performing Arts and my acting coach told me that I was a disgrace to the Moscow Theatre," Aniston says.

"I was determined to prove him wrong and do good work."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## Kate dismisses photo op qualms

**PEOPLE** Kate Winslet balked at the idea of stripping off for a new Vanity Fair photo shoot until she realized photographer Steven Meisel, the man behind the shots in Madonna's Sex book, would be behind the lens, [imdb.com](#) reports.

The actress had no idea she'd be baring all until magazine bosses hit her with the concept on the day of the shoot.

Winslet's reservations quickly disappeared as she reminded herself what a great opportunity she was being given.

"I didn't go into that shoot knowing the concept ... but when you're asked to be on the cover of Vanity Fair and photographed



by Steven Meisel, it's a wonderful thing to experience," she says. "It's a fantastic opportunity just to be able to have that memory in your lifetime ... I thought, 'Yeah, dammit, I am; I'm 33, I've had two kids, Steven Meisel is taking pictures of me naked. This is never gonna happen again!' I transported myself 30 years on and I wanted to be able to say,

'Yeah, I did that.' That was one of those crazy, wonderful things and I'm really happy to have that memory. I have the prints from the shoot that Steven gave me at the end of the day that were taken out of the camera and were blown up."

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## Hubby wants \$1.46M from Amy?

**BREAKUP** The husband of singer Amy Winehouse is reportedly demanding a \$1.46-million US payoff to keep quiet about their marriage, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

threatened to write a tell-all book about his relationship with Winehouse if he isn't paid.

"He's so two-faced. He just wants a payoff. Money's his driving force," a source tells Britain's News of the World.

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## Belonging to men sexy: Eva

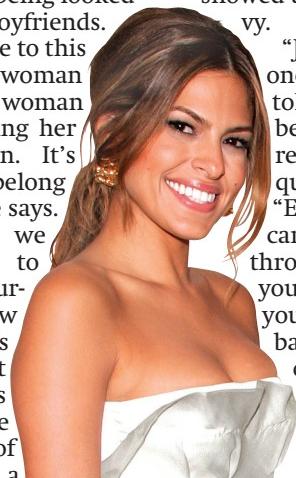
**DATING** Eva Mendes thinks "belonging" to a man is sexy, [femalefirst.co.uk](#) reports.

natural thing. But I'm not sure if every woman has it."

Mendes also said she hates jealous men and would instantly end a relationship if her partner showed any signs of envy.

"Jealousy is the one thing I can't tolerate in a guy because of my career," she tells Esquire magazine. "Everything else can be talked through, but if you're jealous, you're holding me back and I can't do what I love. So that's a deal-breaker."

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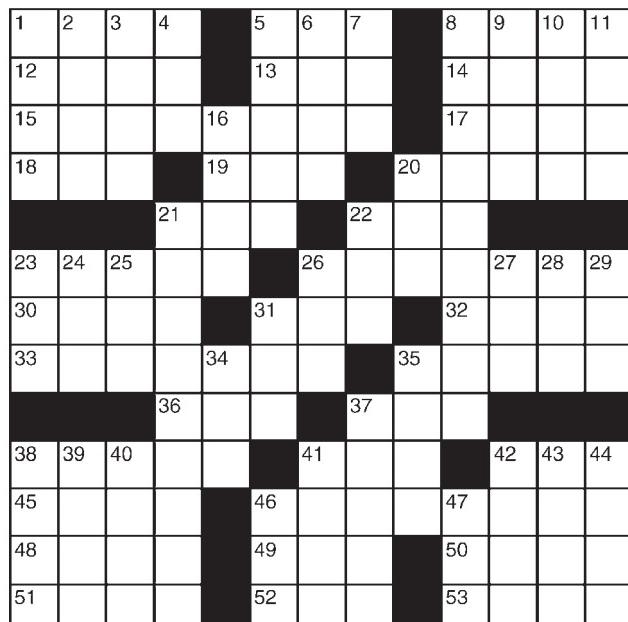




Today  
Flurries  
-3° / -5°  
40%

Wednesday  
Rain  
11° / 3°  
90%

Thursday  
Rain  
6° / 3°  
90%

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)**Crossword across**

- 1 Group of actors 21 Toward the stern  
5 Where Goldilocks was found 22 Purchase  
8 Tracy or Cheney 23 Popeye's burger-eating chum  
12 Leer at 26 Small car  
13 "—not choose to run" 30 State  
14 Inactive 31 Candle matter  
15 "Silent Cal" 32 Smell  
17 Peruse 33 Dweller  
18 Birthday card info 35 Harrelson of "Cheers"  
19 Palin portrayer on "SNL" 36 Cover  
20 Goes nowhere 37 Crony  
38 Air current 38 Air current  
41 Wahine's 42 Wahine's  
45 46 47  
48 49 50  
51 52 53

**Crossword down**

- 1 Caesar's TV co-star 21 Prankster's cry favorite  
2 Enthusiastic, plus 22 Carton 38 Sandwich shop  
3 — gin fizz 23 Bankroll 39 Regretted  
4 Aviv lead-in 24 "— Got a Secret"  
5 Lavatory fixture 25 Chaps 40 Jason's ship  
6 Nervous 26 Drop from the payroll 41 Appear ominously  
7 Fawn's mama 27 Big bother 42 Quaker's address  
8 Cheating 28 Massachusetts cape 43 Carina  
9 Notion 29 Take a whack at 44 Probability  
10 Sculpture medium 31 Marry 46 Afternoon get-together  
11 Sneakers brand 34 Acne evidence 47 That woman  
16 Dubious 35 Banshee's call  
20 Total 37 Garden

**PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**

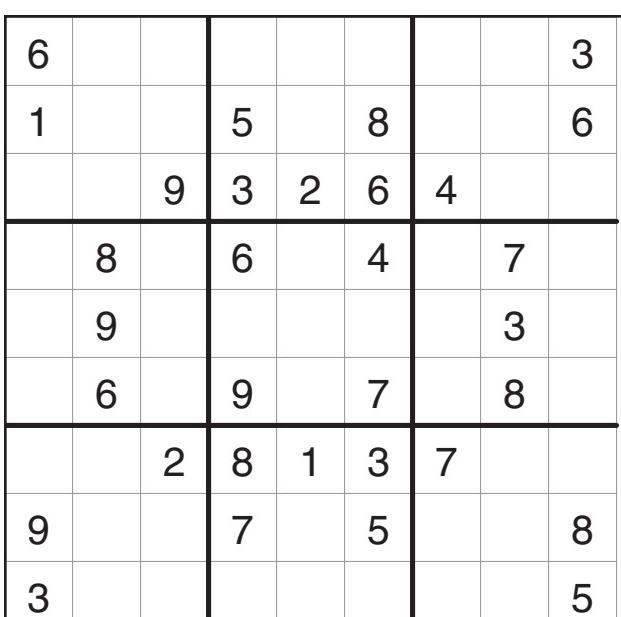
5	4	7	9	2	1	6	8	3
8	3	6	7	4	5	1	9	2
2	1	9	3	8	6	5	4	7
1	8	2	5	6	7	9	3	4
4	6	3	1	9	8	2	7	5
7	9	5	4	3	2	8	1	6
6	5	4	8	1	3	7	2	9
9	2	8	6	7	4	3	5	1
3	7	1	2	5	9	4	6	8

Find today's answers + play more games at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)**SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:**

- Under 13 min ..... Genius  
13-17 min ..... Scholar  
17-21 min ..... Smart  
21-25 min ..... Not bad  
25+ min ..... Keep practising

**Sudoku**

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

**Horoscopes****ARIES****MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

A lively person makes headway with a sad guy. There'll be much ado about nothing. Euphoria figures prominently in your plans.

**TAURUS****APRIL 21-MAY 21**

Your thrill-seeking ways will be discussed. Disturbing feelings will cause distress. A friend relies on your sensible advice.

**SCORPIO****OCT 24-NOV 22**

A crisis is the foundation of future opportunities. Someone will have mechanical problems. A senior will interfere with an appointment.

**GEMINI****MAY 22-JUNE 21**

Avoid spending too much time seeking good luck. Relationship issues will be cleared up. An improvement causes second thoughts.

**SAGITTARIUS****NOV 23-DEC 21**

A desired object will seem flawed. Unleash The Force on a second-rate bore. Be cool when you're correct about an intolerant person.

**CANCER****JUNE 22-JULY 22**

A lively friend's emotions should be investigated. The least said about a problem, the better. Gossip is overheard by a busybody.

**CAPRICORN****DEC 22-JAN 20**

An insomniac will reveal too much. Prepare to investigate a death for its relevance. Expect to get a surprising message.

**LEO****JULY 23-AUG 23**

A relationship improves after someone gets his first choice. Desperate measures will be taken. Chatter about your objectives comes up.

**AQUARIUS****JAN 21-FEB 18**

You'll be on top of the world. A certain situation will help to pay your bills. A dispute will be erased by an affable associate.

**VIRGO****AUG 24-SEPT 22**

Time passes too quickly when you're arguing. Someone will agonize over forgiveness. Defensive strategies will be maddening.

**PISCES****FEB 19-MARCH 20**

A dream about the news will come true. A rebellion against routine activity occurs. A peacemaker's persona won't be comforting.

**TELL METRO READERS WHAT YOU THINK****NEW "COMMENT & VIEWS"**

Whether you agree or disagree about anything you've read in Metro, we want to know. Send us your views and pick up Metro daily to find out what other Metro readers are saying.

Email your letters to

[halifaxletters@metronews.ca](mailto:halifaxletters@metronews.ca)
  
Do it daily.
**Take Five****Metro Recipe of the Day****Lamb Racks with Garlic And Rosemary****INGREDIENTS:**

- 4 lamb racks (with 3 cutlets per rack)  
2 garlic cloves, sliced  
2 long sprigs of fresh rosemary  
1 tbsp (15 mL) honey  
2 tbsp (25 mL) grainy mustard  
2 tbsp (25 mL) mint sauce

**METHOD:**

- Preheat the oven to 400°F (200°C). Trim excess fat from lamb racks. Cut small slits in top of lamb with a small, sharp knife. Insert slices of garlic and small pieces of rosemary into slits. Sit lamb on a plate.
- Whisk together honey, grainy mustard and mint sauce, and brush over lamb racks. Marinate for 20 minutes.
- Put lamb racks into a bak-

ing dish and spoon on sauce that may be left on plate.

Bake for 20 minutes for medium-rare, or until cooked to your liking, basting a couple of times during cooking with honey-mustard mixture.

4. Remove from oven and let stand, covered, in a warm place for 10 minutes to allow juices to be absorbed back into meat. Either cut lamb into individual cutlets or leave rack intact and serve as is.

**SERVES 4****rd.ca**

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

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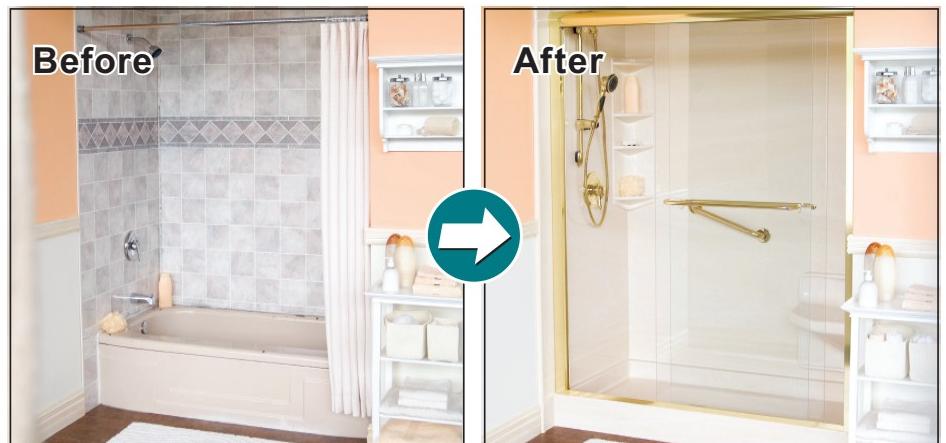
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